



Investing in Our Faith Capital Campaign

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I learn more or talk with someone about making a gift?

For more information about the *Investing in Our Faith* campaign or making a pledge, please contact:

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Campaign Purpose & Vision

1. Why is St. Paul the Apostle conducting a capital campaign now?

In 2013, St. Paul the Apostle completed a comprehensive assessment of the facility needs of our church, school, offices, and Early Learning Center. Our 2016 capital campaign raised \$2.9 million, allowing us to complete significant improvements to both the church and school, including electrical upgrades, improved accessibility, an elevator, school office and security renovations, restroom improvements, and restoration and renovation of the church.

The original plan also included a Fine Arts addition to move Art, Band, and Vocal Music from the former convent, now our Early Learning Center, into the main school building. Because the campaign did not reach its highest goal of \$3.8 million, the Fine Arts addition was postponed.

Plans to continue the project were delayed first by the pandemic and later by the diocesan *Upon the Rock* campaign. Now, in 2026, we are ready to complete that vision while also addressing current needs, including expansion of our Early Learning Program and air conditioning the school.

2. What is the goal of the Investing in Our Faith campaign?

The campaign goal is **\$4.75 million** and will fund three primary areas:

- Main School Building Addition
- Early Learning Center
- School Air Conditioning

3. How does this campaign align with SCCS plans?

SCCS is currently developing its long-range plans under new leadership. St. Paul leadership has met multiple times with SCCS President Michael Fisher and the SCCS Board of Directors, and they are supportive of our building project.

4. If SCCS eventually forms a middle school, will St. Paul still need the addition?

Yes. If SCCS creates a middle school, St. Paul could use the additional space to expand primary grades from two larger sections to three smaller sections.

In addition, our Early Learning programs, particularly daycare, are operating at capacity. Expanding into the second floor of the Early Learning Center will allow us to increase enrollment and better serve parish and school families. The need for these improvements remains regardless of future SCCS decisions regarding middle school students.

Proposed Improvements

5. What will be included in the new Fine Arts addition?

The first floor will include a Band Room adjacent to the gym, making concert setup easier, along with instrument storage, a band office/lesson space, and a Vocal Music Room.

The second floor will include an Art Room with sinks, storage, and a kiln room, as well as two appropriately sized classrooms. Existing smaller classrooms will be converted into small-group instructional and meeting spaces, and a faculty restroom will be added.

6. Why does St. Paul need dedicated Art, Band, and Music spaces?

The Fine Arts classes are currently located in areas that were not originally designed for this purpose. Quality Fine Arts programs require specialized spaces. Art requires sinks, storage, and kiln facilities. Band requires appropriate acoustics, instrument-cleaning areas, and specialized instrument storage. Vocal Music requires a large, flexible space for singing, movement, and other musical activities.

These dedicated spaces will allow our teachers to provide stronger Fine Arts experiences and give students greater opportunities to discover and develop their God-given talents.

7. What areas of the school will receive air conditioning?

All classrooms will receive air conditioning through rooftop units.

8. Why is air conditioning important?

Air conditioning will provide a more comfortable, climate-controlled environment that supports student learning and the health and well-being of students and staff. St. Paul the Apostle School is the only school in SCCS that is not air conditioned. When heat indexes reach the extreme caution level, we have to cancel classes for the safety of students and staff.

9. How will the Early Learning Program be expanded?

The second floor of the Early Learning Center will be remodeled to provide two additional classrooms and storage. An exterior stairway providing direct egress will also be added to meet fire-code requirements.

10. Will existing classrooms be affected?

Yes, in a positive way. Two appropriately sized classrooms will replace the current fifth-grade classrooms, which are among the smallest in the building. The existing rooms will then be converted into small-group breakout and meeting spaces.

11. Will the addition match the existing school?

Yes. Our architect also designed the school's previous addition, which blends beautifully with the original building. The new addition will use complementary brick and architectural details so that it blends seamlessly with the existing school.

Cost & Construction

12. When will construction begin?

Construction can begin once 100% of the project cost is pledged and 60% is received in cash. Based on current campaign progress, we anticipate construction beginning in **June 2027**.

13. How long will construction take?

Construction is expected to take approximately **9–10 months**, with completion anticipated in **spring 2028**.

14. Will construction disrupt school operations?

Because the project is primarily an exterior addition, disruption to school operations should be minimal. The greatest impact is expected to be limited access to the west parking lot during construction.

15. What happens if construction costs increase?

The project budget includes contingencies designed to account for potential increases in construction costs. Based on current estimates, the \$4.75 million budget is expected to cover the project.

16. Will the parish or school take on debt for the project?

No. The project is not expected to require debt.

17. Will tuition or parish assessments increase because of the project?

No. Tuition will not increase as a result of the project, nor are parish assessments planned to fund it.

Giving & Pledges

18. Who is being asked to participate in the campaign?

We are inviting parishioners, school families, alumni, and friends of St. Paul the Apostle to participate in the campaign.

19. How much am I expected to give?

There is no required gift amount. Our hope is for broad participation, with each family prayerfully considering a gift that is meaningful and appropriate for its circumstances.

Every gift matters, regardless of size, and together our gifts will help make this vision a reality.

20. Can I make my pledge over several years?

Yes. The campaign is structured as a three-year campaign, although we are happy to work with families on a payment schedule that best meets their needs.

21. How do I make a pledge?

Pledge cards are available through the parish and school offices and will also be distributed to parishioners and school families.

Pledges may also be made online through the **Make a Pledge** page on the St. Paul the Apostle website.

22. When do pledge payments begin?

Donations may be made at any time. If possible, please make your first payment by the end of 2026. The sooner we have 60% of the donations in hand, the sooner we can begin construction. Donors may indicate on their pledge card when they would like their payments to begin.

23. How can I make my payments?

Gifts may be made by check, automatic withdrawal, credit card, stock or other securities, employer matching gifts, eligible IRA distributions, or online through WeShare.

24. Are campaign gifts tax deductible?

Campaign gifts are charitable contributions to St. Paul the Apostle.

25. Can my employer's matching-gift program be used?

Many employers offer matching-gift programs that may apply. Please let us know if your employer has a program. We can help check with your employer to determine eligibility. The Church is not always eligible, but the school is. We can work with you to direct the matching gift.

26. Can I make a gift in honor or memory of someone?

Yes. Gifts may be made in honor or memory of a loved one.

27. Can my gift remain anonymous?

Yes. Donors who prefer to remain anonymous may indicate that preference.

28. What if my financial circumstances change after I make a pledge?

We understand that circumstances can change. If that happens, please contact the parish office so we can work with you. We are grateful for every commitment and every gift.

Accountability & Campaign Management

29. Has the Diocese approved the project and campaign?

Yes. The Diocese Building Commission and Bishop have reviewed and approved plans for the project and the capital campaign.

30. Are campaign donations restricted to these projects?

Yes. Campaign gifts are restricted to the Building Fund designated for this project. Any funds remaining after the project is completed will remain designated for future building needs.

31. How will parishioners and school families be updated on campaign progress?

Campaign updates will be shared through the weekly parish bulletin, school newsletters, and the parish and school websites, along with periodic mailings.

32. What happens if the campaign raises more than its goal?

Any funds raised beyond the amount needed for this project will remain in the Building Fund for future facility needs.

This has benefited St. Paul in the past. Gifts received after our previous campaign have continued to grow and will provide approximately **\$700,000 toward the current project.**

33. What happens if the campaign does not reach its goal?

We are confident in our ability to reach the campaign goal. We will continue to fundraise until the goal is met.

34. Will donors receive acknowledgment of their gifts for tax purposes?

Yes. Donors will receive acknowledgment of their gifts for their records.

Our Mission

35. Why should I consider supporting this campaign?

For generations, St. Paul the Apostle has been a place where students are formed academically, spiritually, and personally. This campaign is an investment in the next chapter of that mission.

Through new and improved learning spaces, greater comfort throughout the school, and expanded opportunities for our youngest learners, we are preparing St. Paul the Apostle to serve families for generations to come.